Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00410 241916Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 L-03 EUR-12 OPR-02 CCO-00
/085 W
----------078910 241922Z /44
O 241700Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5679
AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIALE 0118
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BELIZE 0410

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR GT BH UK
SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN MILITARY EXERCISES ON BELIZE BORDER

1. IN COURSE OF DINNER AT RESIDENCE LAST NIGHT, COL JOHN HEAD, COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, TOLD ME GUATEMALAN MILITARY EXERCISES IN PELEN HAD BEGUN JUNE 22 AND HAD APPEARED TO INVOLVE BOMBING PRACTICE AND CLOSE AIRCRAFT SUPPORT OF GROUND TRGOPS.

2. COL HEAD SAW THE SITUATION AS "FAR MORE DANGEROUS" THAN THAT OF 1975. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN READINESS OF BRIGISH FORCES BUT SAID THEY WERE DANGEROUSLY VULNERABLE WITHOUT THEIR AIRCRAFT.

3. EARLIER IN EVENING AT AN OFFICIAL GOB RECEPTION, GOVERNOR MCENTEE CALLED ME ASIDE AND TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN PLEASED TO LEARN U. S. WOULD BE RAISING SUBJECT OF EXERCISES WITH GOG. HE NOTED ALSO THAT SUBJECT OF BRITISH RESPONSE HAD BEEN RAISED
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BY DEPARTMENT. THIS, TOO, HE SAID, WITH AN UNMISTAKABLY MISCHIEVOUS TWICKLE, WAS E VERY GOOD THING. (COMMENT: H. E. IS ALWAYS PLEESED BY ANY EVIDENCE OF INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF U. S. IN BELIZE DISPUTE. ALSO, IN THIS INSTANCE, WE PROBABLY HELPED HIM MAKE A CASE WITH HMG AGAINST RETURN OF HARRIER JETS WHICH COL HEAD HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN URGING.)

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4. LOCAL POPULACE SHOWING NO SIGNS OF ALARM. THERE IS, HOWEVER, GENERAL AWARENESS THAT SOMETHING IS GOING ON, AND RUMORS ARE RIFENING. ONE OF THESE HAS HARRIER JETS NOW STANDING BY IN NASSAU. (COMMENT: THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE UNLIKELY AS ARRANGEMENTS WERE REPORTEDLY MADE LAST YEAR FOR HARRIERS TO RETURN TO BELIZE VIA CANADA IF NEEDED.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EXERCISES, BORDER CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Retention: 0
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2048583
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUATEMALAN MILITARY EXERCISES ON BELIZE BORDER
TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK, (HEAD, JOHN)
To: LONDON STATE
Type: TE
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